

3636/18

RESPONSE TRANSMITTAL LETTER			Attorney Docket 20005.14
Application Serial Number:	Filing Date:	Examiner:	Group Art Unit:
09/992,690	11/13/2001	Harris, Stephanie N.	3636

RECEIVED
DEC 04 2003
GROUP 360

Invention: POSITIONING MECHANISM FOR A MASSAGE CHAIR

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENT AND TRADEMARKS:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application. The fee has been calculated as shown below.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED

	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	NUMBER OF EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	48	MINUS	45	3	\$9	\$27
INDEP. CLAIMS	10	MINUS	10	0	\$43	\$0

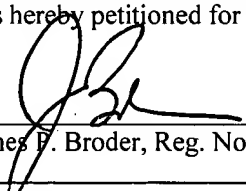
— Petition is hereby made under 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the time for response to the Office Action of _____ to and through _____, comprising of an extension of the shortened statutory period of:

— one month (\$110) — three months (\$950)
— two months (\$420) — four months (\$1,480)

TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS RESPONSE	\$27
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- ☒ Applicant previously claimed small entity status.
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$27.00 is enclosed.
- ☒ The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1141, pertaining to 1) any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for the presentation of extra claims; 2) any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.
- ☒ Any additional extension of time required for the timely submission of this paper, the fees for which have not been previously paid, is hereby petitioned for and requested.

11/19/03
Date


James P. Broder, Reg. No. 43,514

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING: I hereby certify that this correspondence and all correspondence identified as accompanying this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 19, 2003.


James P. Broder, Reg. No. 43,514



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Roleder, et al.

Serial No: 09/992,690

Filed: November 13, 2001

For: Positioning Mechanism For A Massage Chair

Examiner: Harris, Stephanie N.

Attorney Docket: 20005.14

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

GROUP 3600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This amendment and response is to the Office Action dated September 9, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on December 9, 2003. This Amendment and Response to Office Action is timely filed within the three-month deadline for the Response. Please amend the above-captioned patent application as set forth below:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class postage prepaid mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this the 19th day of November, 2003.

JAMES P. BRODER, Attorney for Applicant--Registration No. 43,514

Status of all claims in the Application:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A massage chair adapted for seating an individual, the massage chair comprising:

a seat;

a front upper support assembly coupled to the seat;

a first support surface; and

a first positioning mechanism that movably secures the first support surface to the front upper support assembly, the first positioning mechanism including (i) only one guide rail that is coupled to the first support surface, the guide rail having a substantially square cross-section, and (ii) a clamping assembly that is coupled to the front upper support assembly, the clamping assembly selectively moving between a locked position that inhibits movement of the first support surface relative to the clamping assembly, and an unlocked position that allows rotation of the first support surface relative to front upper support assembly and sliding of the first support surface relative to the front upper support assembly.

4-17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) A massage chair adapted for seating an individual, the massage chair comprising:

a seat;

a front upper support assembly coupled to the seat;

a first support surface; and

a first positioning mechanism that movably secures the first support surface to the front upper support assembly, the first positioning mechanism including:

a guide rail that is coupled to the first support surface, the guide rail having a longitudinal axis and a substantially diamond-shaped cross-section relative to the first support surface, the guide rail having opposing corners positioned on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis; and

a clamping assembly that is coupled to the front upper support assembly, the clamping assembly releasably clamping the guide rail, the clamping assembly having a rotational axis, the clamping assembly including (i) a clamp pin positioned substantially along the rotational axis, the clamp pin being substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the guide rail, the clamp pin extending through the opposing corners of the guide rail substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the guide rail, the clamp pin having a first pin end and an opposing second pin end, (ii) a first guide receiver positioned near the first pin end and a second guide receiver positioned near the second pin end, the guide receivers each having a substantially V-shaped notch for receiving separate portions of the guide rail, the guide receivers selectively moving between a locked position that inhibits movement of the first support surface relative to the clamping assembly, and an unlocked position that allows rotation of the first support surface around the rotational axis and movement of the first support surface along the longitudinal axis of the guide rail relative to the guide receivers, and (iii) a locking lever that moves the guide receivers between the locked position and the unlocked position.

19. (Original) The massage chair of claim 18 wherein the first support surface is a chest support.

20. (Original) The massage chair of claim 18 wherein the first support surface is a head support.

21. (Original) A positioning mechanism that movably secures a first support surface to a support assembly, the positioning mechanism comprising:

a guide rail that is coupled to the first support surface, the guide rail having a substantially diamond-shaped cross-section relative to the first support surface; and

a clamping assembly that is coupled to the support assembly, the clamping assembly releasably clamping the guide rail, the clamping assembly including (i) a clamp pin having a first pin end and an opposing second pin end, and (ii) a first guide receiver positioned near the first pin end and a second guide receiver positioned near the second pin end, the guide receivers each having a substantially V-shaped notch for receiving separate portions of the guide rail, the guide receivers selectively moving between a locked position that inhibits movement of the first support surface relative to the clamping assembly, and an unlocked position that allows rotation of the first support surface relative to the support assembly and sliding of the first support surface relative to the support assembly.

22. (Original) The positioning mechanism of claim 21 wherein the guide rail includes a longitudinal axis and opposing corners positioned on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis, and wherein the clamp pin extends through the opposing corners of the guide rail substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, and wherein, in the unlocked position, the first support surface slides along the longitudinal axis.

23. (Original) The positioning mechanism of claim 21 further comprising a locking lever that moves the guide receivers between the locked position and the unlocked position.

24. (Original) A massage device that includes the positioning mechanism of claim 21.

25. (Currently Amended) A massage ~~table~~ chair that includes the positioning mechanism of claim 21.

26-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) A massage chair adapted for seating an individual, the massage chair comprising:

- a seat;

- a front upper support assembly coupled to the seat;

- a first support surface; and

- a first positioning mechanism that movably secures the first support surface to the front upper support assembly, the first positioning mechanism including (i) a guide rail that is coupled to the first support surface, and (ii) a clamping assembly that is coupled to the front upper support assembly, the clamping assembly including (a) a clamp pin having a first pin end and an opposing second pin end, and (b) a first guide receiver positioned near the first pin end and a second guide receiver positioned near the second pin end, at least one of the guide receivers having a substantially V-shaped notch that receives a portion of the guide rail, at least one of the guide receivers selectively moving between a locked position that inhibits movement of the first support surface relative to the clamping assembly and an unlocked position that allows rotation of the first support surface relative to front upper support assembly and sliding of the first support surface relative to the front upper support assembly.

33. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 32 wherein each of the guide receivers has a substantially V-shaped notch that receives a corresponding portion of the guide rail.

34. (Previously presented) A massage chair adapted for seating an individual, the massage chair comprising:

- a seat;

- a front upper support assembly coupled to the seat;

- a first support surface; and

- a first positioning mechanism that movably secures the first support surface to the front upper support assembly, the first positioning mechanism including (i) a guide rail that is coupled to the first support surface, the guide rail having a longitudinal axis, and (ii) a clamping assembly that is coupled to the front upper support assembly, the clamping assembly including (a) a clamp pin having a first pin end and an opposing second pin end, the clamp pin extending through the guide rail substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, and (b) a guide receiver positioned near the first pin end, the guide receiver selectively moving between a locked position that inhibits movement of the first support surface relative to the clamping assembly, and an unlocked position that allows rotation of the first support surface relative to front upper support assembly and sliding of the first support surface relative to the front upper support assembly.

35. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 34 wherein the guide rail includes opposing corners positioned on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis, and wherein the clamp pin extends through at least one of the opposing corners of the guide rail.

36. (Currently Amended) A massage chair adapted for seating an individual, the massage chair comprising:

- a seat;

- a front upper support assembly coupled to the seat;

- a first support surface; and

- a first positioning mechanism that movably secures the first support surface to the front upper support assembly, the first positioning mechanism

including (i) a guide rail that is coupled to and centrally positioned relative to the first support surface, and (ii) a clamping assembly that is coupled to the front upper support assembly, the clamping assembly including (a) a clamp pin having a first pin end and an opposing second pin end, and (b) a guide receiver positioned near the first pin end, the guide receiver selectively moving between a locked position that inhibits movement of the first support surface relative to the clamping assembly, and an unlocked position that allows rotation of the first support surface relative to front upper support assembly and sliding of the first support surface relative to the front upper support assembly.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for adjusting the position of a first support surface for a massage chair, the method comprising the steps of:

coupling a guide rail having a longitudinal axis and a substantially diamond-shaped cross-section to the first support surface; and

moving a clamping assembly having a rotational axis from a locked position that inhibits movement of the guide rail and the first support surface relative to the clamping assembly using two guide receivers that each has a substantially V-shaped notch that receives a separate portion of the guide rail, to an unlocked position that allows rotation of the guide rail and the first support surface around the rotational axis and movement of the guide rail and the first support surface relative to the clamping assembly along the longitudinal axis[; and]].

38. (Previously presented) A massage chair adapted for seating an individual, the massage chair comprising:

a seat;

a front upper support assembly coupled to the seat;

a first support surface; and

a first positioning mechanism that movably secures the first support surface to the front upper support assembly, the first positioning mechanism

including (i) a guide rail that is coupled to the first support surface, and (ii) a clamping assembly that is coupled to the front upper support assembly, the clamping assembly including two guide receivers that receive the guide rail, the guide receivers being positioned on substantially opposite sides of the guide rail, the guide receivers selectively moving between a locked position that inhibits movement of the first support surface relative to a portion of the clamping assembly, and an unlocked position that allows rotation of the first support surface relative to the front upper support assembly and sliding of the first support surface relative to the guide receivers.

39. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 38 wherein the guide rail has a longitudinal axis and the clamping assembly includes a rotational axis that is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, and wherein in the unlocked position the first support surface rotates around the rotational axis and slides along the longitudinal axis.

40. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 38 wherein the guide rail has a substantially square cross-section.

41. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 38 wherein the guide rail has a substantially diamond-shaped cross-section.

42. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 38 wherein the clamping assembly includes a clamp pin having a first pin end and an opposing second pin end, wherein the first guide receiver is positioned near the first pin end, and the second guide receiver is positioned near the second pin end.

43. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 42 wherein the guide rail includes a longitudinal axis and the guide rail is positioned so that the clamp pin extends through the guide rail substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

44. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 42 wherein the guide rail includes opposing corners positioned on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis, and wherein the clamp pin extends through at least one of the opposing corners of the guide rail.

45. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 42 wherein the guide rail includes a guide rail slot that is positioned substantially longitudinally along the guide rail and the clamp pin extends through the guide rail slot.

46. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 38 wherein at least one of the guide receivers has a substantially V-shaped notch that receives a portion of the guide rail.

47. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 38 wherein each of the guide receivers has a substantially V-shaped notch that receives a separate portion of the guide rail.

48. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 38 wherein the first positioning mechanism includes a locking lever that moves at least one of the guide receivers between the locked position and the unlocked position.

49. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 38 wherein the positioning mechanism includes exactly one guide rail.

50. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 38 wherein the first support surface is a chest support.

51. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 38 wherein the first support surface is a head support.

52. (Currently Amended) A massage chair adapted for seating an individual, the massage chair comprising:

a seat;

a front upper support assembly coupled to the seat;

a first support surface ~~having a longitudinal axis~~; and

a first positioning mechanism that movably secures the first support surface to the front upper support assembly, the first positioning mechanism including (i) only one guide rail that is coupled to the first support surface, ~~the guide rail being positioned substantially along the longitudinal axis of the first support surface~~, and (ii) a clamping assembly that is coupled to the front upper support assembly, the clamping assembly including a single locking lever, wherein movement of the locking lever moves the clamping assembly between a locked position that inhibits movement of the first support surface relative to the clamping assembly, and an unlocked position that allows rotation of the first support surface relative to front upper support assembly and sliding of the first support surface relative to the front upper support assembly.

53. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 52 wherein the guide rail has a longitudinal axis, and the first support surface slides in a direction that is parallel to the longitudinal axis when the clamping assembly is in the unlocked position.

54. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 52 wherein the guide rail has a longitudinal axis and the clamping assembly includes a rotational axis that is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, and wherein in the unlocked position the first support surface rotates around the rotational axis and slides along the longitudinal axis.

55. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 52 wherein the guide rail has a substantially square cross-section.

56. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 52 wherein the guide rail has a substantially diamond-shaped cross-section.

57. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 52 wherein the clamping assembly includes (i) a clamp pin having a first pin end and an opposing second pin end, and (ii) a guide receiver positioned near the first pin end, the guide receiver selectively moving between the locked position and the unlocked position.

58. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 57 wherein the clamping assembly includes a second guide receiver that is positioned near the second pin end.

59. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 58 wherein at least one of the guide receivers has a substantially V-shaped notch that receives a portion of the guide rail.

60. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 57 wherein the guide rail includes a longitudinal axis and the guide rail is positioned so that the clamp pin extends through the guide rail substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

61. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 60 wherein the guide rail includes opposing corners positioned on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis, and wherein the clamp pin extends through the opposing corners of the guide rail.

62. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 57 wherein the guide rail includes a guide rail slot that is positioned substantially longitudinally along the guide rail and the clamp pin extends through the guide rail slot.

63. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 52 wherein the first support surface has a longitudinal axis, and wherein the guide rail is positioned substantially along the longitudinal axis of the first support surface ~~positioning mechanism includes exactly one guide rail.~~

64. (Previously presented) The massage chair of claim 52 wherein the first support surface is a chest support.

65. (Currently Amended) A method for adjusting the position of a first support surface for a massage chair, the first support surface having a longitudinal axis, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning a guide rail ~~substantially along a longitudinal axis of~~ medially along the first support surface; and

moving a single locking lever to move a clamping assembly having a rotational axis between a locked position that inhibits movement of the guide rail and the first support surface relative to the clamping assembly, and an unlocked position that allows rotation of the guide rail and the first support surface around the rotational axis and movement of the guide rail and the first support surface relative to the clamping assembly substantially along the longitudinal axis of the first support surface.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 65 wherein the step of moving the locking lever includes receiving the guide rail with two guide receivers, each guide receiver having a substantially V-shaped notch that receive separate portions of the guide rail.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the guide rail is positioned substantially between the two guide receivers.

68. (New) The method of claim 65 wherein the step of fixedly securing includes securing the guide rail substantially medially along the first support surface.

69. (New) The method of claim 65 wherein the step of fixedly securing includes fixedly securing exactly one guide rail to the first support surface.

70. (New) The method of claim 65 further comprising the step of extending a clamp pin of the clamping assembly through a guide rail slot in the guide rail so that the guide rail slidably moves relative to the clamp pin.